

Matthew Cottrill House  
Main Street (U.S. Route 1)  
Damariscotta  
Lincoln County  
Maine

HABS No. ME-93

HABS  
ME  
8-DAMAR  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## MATTHEW COTTRILL HOUSE

HABS  
ME  
8-DAMAR  
1-

Address: Main Street (U.S. Route 1) facing Damariscotta River opposite Saltwater pier, Damariscotta, Lincoln County, Maine.

Present Owner and Occupant: Dr. Rufus E. Stetson.

Present Use: Residence and office.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is one of the large, early houses in Damariscotta, built for one of the most prominent early settlers of the town.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Matthew Cottrill, original owner.

2. Date of erection: 1801.

3. Architect: Nicholas Codd. Codd also designed the James Kavanagh house in Damariscotta Mills; the Governor Smith house in Wiscasset, and St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church in Damariscotta Mills.

4. Notes on alterations and additions: According to the present owner, Dr. Rufus E. Stetson, the ell is part of an earlier house erected about 1760 by a member of the Chapman family.

5. Sources of information: Interview with present owner, Dr. Rufus E. Stetson, summer 1960, by F. Blair Reeves.

St. Patrick's Church, Newcastle, Maine, Sesquicentennial, 1808-1958 (Damariscotta, Maine: The News Print Shop [1958]). Copy at the Skidompha Free Library, Damariscotta, Maine.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Matthew Cottrill and James Kavanagh were two of the most prominent early settlers of Damariscotta. They immigrated to Boston from County Wexford, Ireland, about 1781. They moved to Damariscotta about 1793 and became leaders of the settlement of Roman Catholic Irish there. Kavanagh and Cottrill formed a very prosperous partnership as merchants, millers, and traders with a large fleet of ships.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is a large, frame house, built in 1801, a work of the architect Nicholas Codd.

2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all size: Two-story, five-bay main block facing southwest with a one-and-a-half-story rear wing.

2. Foundations: Large cut blocks of granite.

3. Wall construction: Clapboards with corner boards and flat boards as belt courses between stories.

4. Porches, stoops: Semicircular entrance porch with four fluted Roman Doric columns, full entablature with molded cornice with small brackets. Six wood steps follow the curve of the porch.

5. Chimneys: Two inside brick chimneys in main block. One tall chimney in rear wing.

6. Openings:

a. Doors and doorways: Six-panel main entrance door with side lights and elliptical top light; doorway and door panels delicately decorated with incised and reeded patterns. Six-panel door with semicircular top light at rear of southeast side of main block; later entrance at rear wing.

b. Windows and shutters: Six over six light double hung windows with louvered shutters. Simple molded frames.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Very low hip roof on main block. Gable roof with asphalt shingles on rear wing.

b. Cornice: Simple molded cornice with denticulated bed mold.

c. Dormers: Gabled dormer, apparently later, on rear wing.

C. Technical Description of Interior: Central hall, four-room plan. Residence in front, doctor's office in rear wing.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house is set back about 20' from the sidewalk of the main street in a small town. The lot is elevated four steps above the sidewalk with narrow side yards and deeper rear yard.

2. Walks, driveways: Modern concrete sidewalks. Gravel driveway on southeast side of house to garage at the rear of the house.

3. Landscaping: Informal with lawn, trees, and flowers.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, Architect  
National Park Service  
August 1960  
'AND Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
August 1962